

VZCZCXRO4290  
RR RUEHIK  
DE RUEHGV #0845 2801353  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 071353Z OCT 09  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9523  
INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 4634  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0897  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6911  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 5725  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 6544  
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 8533  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 2046  
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 1102  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0726  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 2012  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1070  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1821  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS GENEVA 000845

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS

DEPT PASS USTR  
TEL AVIV FOR AMB, DCM, AND ECON  
USTR FOR CKLEIN, AVENKATARAMAN, SFRANCESKI, MMOWREY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [WTRO](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: ISRAELI AND GC CHAIR ON PA BID FOR WTO OBSERVER STATUS

Reftels: (a) Jerusalem 1607 (B) Secstate 99831 (c) Geneva00783  
(d) Tel Aviv 02166 (e) Geneva00839

1. (SBU) Charge was approached by both the Israelis and General Council (GC) Chair Matus this morning. The Israelis passed on informal word that they probably will have some flexibility on the issue of observership in the Ministerial Conference. They also indicated their intent to be very low key at the GC Chair's consultation tomorrow. Matus, for his part, confirmed his plans for the meeting as reported in ref (e) but expressed concern about Egypt. An Arab source has told him that the Egyptian Ambassador's approach to this issue is being directed from Cairo, with a suggestion that his directions are coming from the highest level. Tomorrow's meeting is for WTO Members only so the PA's more moderate voice will not be there as counterpoint if the Egyptians choose to go on the offensive. Matus seemed pretty firm in his intention not to place this issue on the agenda for the October GC. However, he is keeping his options open in terms of whether he might mention the PA request at GC meeting under other business until he sees how tomorrow's meeting goes.

2. (SBU) We understand that when the Israelis met with Matus they handed him a note that they asked him not to circulate. (They did not share the note with us either.) In the note they argue that the PA does not meet the criteria for WTO membership as a country or a customs territory. It goes on to say that they view the PA's request for GC observership as a violation of the terms of their bilateral agreements in that it attempts to unilaterally change their status.

SHARK